



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 107th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, May 22, 2001

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 22, 2001.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2001, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 25 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate extend beyond 9:50 a.m.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 2 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

□ 1000

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

Gurudev Shree Chitrabhanuji, Founder, Jain Meditation International Cen-

ter, New York, New York offered the following prayer:

Let us all join our hands, heads and hearts together and bow to all perfect and liberated souls, and to all spiritual teachers.

Let us pray that all elected representatives of the people of this Nation be guided in their thoughts, words and actions to achieve the greatest good for all.

Let them have a high sense of responsibility and be free from temptations of selfish interests. Let them be filled with knowledge and wisdom so that resolutions adopted and laws enacted may meet the standards of the good of our people.

May the blessings be on our country, our government, our elected leaders in this House of Congress, and on all living beings of the world.

May the entire universe attain bliss. May all beings be interested in one another's well being. May all faults be eliminated. May people be happy everywhere.

Om Shanti! Shanti! Shanti!

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. BERKLEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOME TO GURUDEV SHREE CHITRABHANUJI

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Gurudev Shree Chitrabhanuji for providing such words of wisdom this morning here on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Gurudev Shree Chitrabhanuji spent 28 years as a Jain monk. During his years in India, he founded the Divine Knowledge Society and other social welfare and emergency relief organizations. He is also a prolific writer, having written more than 25 books that reflect his message of world peace and nonviolence.

The Jain religion, which places heavy emphasis on personal and societal nonviolence in thoughts, speeches and actions, has flourished in India for 3,500 years. This year Jains all around the world celebrate the 2,600th birth anniversary of Lord Mahavere, the last of the revered 24 genas, who spread the Jain message. I guess we could say in a way that Lord Mahavere was ahead of his time, once proclaiming all human beings are equal, whether male or female, rich or poor.

I would like to thank Gurudev Shree Chitrabhanuji again for providing this morning's opening prayer and also Mr. Sushel Jain and all the Jains who have made the trip to Washington this morning to hear this prayer. Many of them are in the gallery. I would also like to thank the House Chaplain Coughlin for allowing us the opportunity to celebrate the Jain spirit here on the House Floor this morning.

ENCROACHMENT ON THE MILITARY

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to address briefly the issue of urban encroachment on our military training.

Mr. Speaker, for too long we have paid lip service to the fact that our American military will always be the

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

best trained military in the world. Unfortunately, as a Nation, we are on the verge of breaking that promise and breaking faith with those who have volunteered to serve our Nation.

The Armed Forces' readiness is being eroded by urban expansion, environmental regulation, and commercial competition for our airspace, for ranges and for communication frequencies, encroachment issues that are threatening the ability of our servicemen and women to effectively prepare for the challenges which may face our Nation.

The iron law of our military is that training saves lives. When training goes down for whatever reason, accidents and casualties go up. Make no mistake, Mr. Speaker. Encroachment is like a cancer, eating away at our training capabilities. We must always be vigilant to this encroachment and act quickly to revitalize our training so as to keep our faith with those sworn to protect us.

A MONUMENT FOR THE WARRIORS OF WORLD WAR II

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, there are great monuments on the mall. All were earned, all admired. America has a rich history indeed. But if any one group of American patriots deserve a parcel of that hallowed ground on the mall, it is the fighting men and women of World War II.

Washington and Jefferson founded America. Lincoln preserved America. But I say to my colleagues, the fighting men and women, those who survived and those who were killed in action, they saved America. An America that fails to recognize the liberation from tyranny by these great warriors is an America that takes for granted our great freedoms.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the lives and the legacy of the fighting men and women of World War II that not only saved America, they saved the entire world.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FEDERATION OF ECUADORIAN ENTITIES ABROAD

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate a group in my congressional district that has done much for the Ecuadorian community in south Florida and around the world: La Federacion de Entidades Ecuatorianas en el Exterior, or the Federation of Ecuadorian Entities Abroad.

This international group is celebrating its 16th anniversary with festivities this month in Miami where the group was founded. The celebration commemorates the Battle of Pichincha, an important date for Ecuadorian freedom. This battle, won on May 24 in 1822, liberated the capital city of Quito and secured the independence of Ecuador. La Federacion de Entidades Ecuatorianas en el Exterior celebrates freedom and history through civic and educational programs, recognizing the contributions of people with Ecuadorian ancestry.

La Federacion has more than 200 groups in the U.S. and around the world representing more than 1 million U.S. citizens. This fraternal group fosters bonds among people with Ecuadorian roots through social and cultural programs that honor their history and their proud heritage.

On this important anniversary of Ecuadorian independence and this group's founding, I wish the members of La Federacion de Entidades Ecuatorianas en el Exterior many more successful and happy years.

NUCLEAR WASTE TRANSPORTATION

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, every day our headlines read about how Vice President CHENEY thinks nuclear power is the answer to our Nation's energy woes. I hope my colleagues and this administration heed my warning, that unless we stop the Yucca Mountain plan, at least 77,000 tons of toxic, dangerous nuclear waste are going to be shipped through 43 States en route to Yucca Mountain.

It is a mathematic certainty that the continuing transfer of lethal waste will result in perhaps hundreds of accidents and the potential for catastrophe is very real. Governors and State legislators across this country have emphatically said they do not want nuclear waste traveling through their States. It is time that we listen to their concerns and heed their warnings.

An accident in one's district could cost billions of dollars in cleanup and the effects on our constituents would be disastrous. Let us eliminate the dangers of this "mobile Chernobyl" by developing methods to safely store the waste where it is currently located.

Please join with me in preventing a national disaster.

PRESIDENT'S PLAN MEANS SOLUTION TO THE ENERGY CRUNCH

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, America does not have enough energy to supply all of the demands today. Californians are facing rolling blackouts and Americans everywhere are paying nearly \$2 a gallon for gasoline.

Mr. Speaker, this energy crunch should not be a surprise to anyone. We have known for years that this was coming, and we have not built a major oil refinery in the United States in 25 years. It has been just as long since we have built a nuclear power plant.

Our dependence on foreign oil has gone up since the 1970s and 1980s, not down, and the rules for when and where one can sell different kinds of gasoline are so complicated, it is amazing we can keep track of it at all.

This energy crunch has been looming for years, and the previous administration did nothing to prevent it from happening. Last week, our new President presented a balanced comprehensive and sensible plan for getting us out of this mess. But the liberals in town are calling for price caps. If there is anything we learned in the 20th century, it is that Soviet-style command economies do not work. Just look at what happened in California.

Mr. Speaker, we need real solutions. Congress needs to get behind the President's plan, and we need to do it now.

NATIONAL STROKE AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. HILL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, because May is National Stroke Awareness Month, I rise today to express my concern about the devastating effect stroke has on Americans.

Every 53 seconds, someone in America has a stroke. About 600,000 Americans will have a stroke this year, and 160,000 of them will die. In fact, stroke is the third leading cause of death in America, and one of the leading causes of disability.

Stroke impacts all of our communities. Millions of husbands, wives and children make sacrifices every day to care for loved ones who suffer a stroke.

The good news is that we are conducting exciting research to find new ways to provide rehabilitation to stroke survivors to help them regain lost abilities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my fellow members to continue to support research efforts to help stroke survivors achieve the greatest quality of life.

SUPPORT THE BUSH TAX PLAN

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, what the big government liberals in Washington want to do to the working men